(a) whether the Prime Minister has asked his Ministry to create funds for the implementation of the minimum services programme for the poor during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the manner in which the above funds are proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Chief Ministers Conference convened by the Prime Minister recommended for adoption of 7 objectives to be attained by the year 2000. These are 100% coverage of provision of safe drinking water; 100% coverage of primary health centres; universalisation of primary education, public housing assistance to all shelterless poor families; extension of the mid-day meal scheme; road connectivity to all villages and habitations; and streamlining the public distribution system targeted to families below the poverty line

(b) and (c): In the 1996-97 Budget Estimates of the Union Government, an additional amount of Rs. 2466 crore has been provided as Central assistance for States and UTs Plans over the allocation made in the Interim Budget to significantly increase the availability of funds for the above said seven Basic Minimum Services. Out of this amount, a sum of Rs. 250 crores has been earmarked for shelter and other basic amenities to slum dwellers. These funds will be utilised by the State and UTs exclusively for providing the identified Basic Minimum Services.

Bonds of Financial Institutions

4600. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of financial institutions like IDBI, ICICI, SCICI, FCI are coming up with the issue of bonds in view of the cash and credit crunch;

(b) if so, the details of the bonds issued by various institutions during each of the last three years till date, scheme-wise and institutions-wise; and

(c) the details of Government's regulations or control over these Bonds?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the details of public issue of bonds by financial institutions namely IDBI, Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI), Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) and SCICI Ltd. and amount of funds collected during the years 1991-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till date) are as under:

(Rs. Crore)

Institution	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
IDBI	Nil	1079.00	Nil
IFCI	Nil	Nil	1250.00*
ICICI	691.35	623.67	Nil
SCICI Ltd.	419.00	473.00	674.00**

* Provisional figures

** Approximate figures

(c) All public issues including debt issues are required to be made in conformity with the guidelines of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for disclosure and investors protection. SEBI has, with effect from March 1996, dispensed with vetting of offer documents for pure debt instruments offered by listed companies subject to certain conditions.

Expenditure Incurred under Demurrage Head

4601. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by BCCL under the demurrage head during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for demurrages paid; and

(c) the heads under which the said demurrages has been paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) According to the information received from Coal India Limited, the expenditure incurred under the demurrage head by BCCL during the last three years was as under:-

1993-94	Rs. 732.81 lakh
1994-95	Rs. 679.56 lakh
1995-96	Rs. 850.23 lakh

(b) The demurrage is required to be paid when the coal companies are not able to complete the loading of a rake in the free time allowed by the railways. The reasons for such delay occurring occasionally inter-alia include the following:-

(i) Inadequate time allowed in some sidings off loading.

(ii) Break down of equipment at loading point.

(iii) Power failures affecting crushing of coal through feeder breakers.

(iv) Less transportation of coal to the sidings due to break down of equipment and other reasons.

(c) The expenses on this account have to be borne by BCCL.

Hiring of Heavy Earth Movers Machinery to ECL

4602. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether hiring of Heavy Earth Movers machinery has been banned in Eastern Coalfield Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, impact of this decision on the production of Coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the directive of the Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) contained in its 25th Report (1986-87) (8th Lok Sabha) on the examination of working of Eastern Coalfields Ltd., (ECL) the Govt. constituted an Expert Group in August, 1987 to look into the issues connected with hiring of HEMM by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. The Expert Group, inter-alia, recommended that the quantum of work to be done by hired HEMM should be pegged down to the level that bridges gap between the achievable capacity and the market demand and that hiring should be limited to exploitation of the marginal isolated patches only in an organised manner and phased out at the earliest. After due consideration of the recommendations of the Expert Group in January, 1988, the Govt., inter-alia, decided to dispense with the practice of hiring of HEMM in a phased manner in the next 3 years. Hiring of HEMM in ECL was discontinued from 1.4.1991. However, some contractors continued on the strength of Court order till the Court dismissed the same on 25.7.1991.

(c) The impact on coal production owing to stoppage of hired HEMM has been approximately quantified as 2.5 million tonnes per year from 1991-92.

[Translation]

Foreign Proposal to Establish Industrial Units in Delhi

4603. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals have been received from the foreign countries to set up industrial units in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise alongwith the amount proposed to be invested in these industrial units; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. 377 foreign direct investment proposals envisages Rs. 16382.07 crores have been approved by the Government during the Post Policy period i.e. from 1.8.91 to 31.07.96.

The details of such proposals viz. Name and country of foreign collaborator, equity investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

[English]

Coal Supply to State Electricity Boards

4604. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Electricity Boards, including that of Maharashtra State have raised claims against stones supplied alongwith coal;

(b) whether Coal India Limited has reimbursed these claims to the State Electricity Boards;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the preventive actions being taken by Coal India Limited and the Coal Ministry to stop supply of stones mixed coal and avoid such claims against stones supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c). State Electricity Boards (SEBs), including Maharashtra State Electricity Board, are unilaterally making deductions on coal bills on account of supply of oversized coal, stones etc. Such unilateral deductions are not acceptable to the coal companies. In most cases, the SEBs have not made payments for the amounts in dispute and hence the question of reimbursement of the amount by coal companies does not arise. Negotiations are being held with the SEBs for settling the disputed amounts mutually. Government has appointed eminent persons as umpires for resolving the disputed amounts. The amounts in dispute are likely to be resolved once the awards have been declared by the umpires.